HIS

MAJESTIES

Reasons for Withdrawing Himself from

ROCHESTER,

Wrote with His own Hand and Ordered by Him to be

PUBLISHED.

REASONS

Why in this Conjuncture no Alteration should be made in the

GOVERNMENT of the CHURCH of

SCOTLAND,

BY A SINCERE

PROTESTANT

AND A LOVER OF HIS

COUNTRY.

Printed in the Year, 1689.

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FOR

Withdrawing Himself from *Rochester.*

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THE World cannot wonder at my withdrawing my self, now this second time, I might have expected some what better usage, after what I wrote to the *prince of Orange*, by my Lord *Feversham*, and the Instructions I gave him; But instead of an Answer, such as I might have hoped for, What was to expect after the usage I received by the making the said Earl a prisoner against the practise and Law of Nations?

The sending his own Guards at eleven at night, to take possession of the posts at *White hall*, without advertising me in the least manner of it, The sending to me at one a clock, after midnight, when I was in Bed, a kind of an Order by three Lords, to be gone out of my own palace, before twelve that same Morning. After all this how should I hope to be safe, so long as I was in the power of one, who had not only done this to me, and invaded my Kingdoms without any just cause given him for it? But that did by his first Declaration, lay the greatest Aspersion upon me, that malice could invent, in that clause of it which concerns my Son; I appeal to all that know me, nay even to himself, that in their Consciences, neither he nor they can believe me in the least capable of so unnatural a Villany, nor of so little common sense, to be imposed on in a thing of such a Nature as that. What had I then to expect from one, who by all Arts hath taken such pains, to make me appear as black as hell to my own people, as well as to all the World besides? What effect that hath had at home, all Mankind have seen by so general a Defection in my Army, as well as in the Nation

amongst

amongſt all ſort of people.

I was Born Free, and deſire to continue ſo, And tho I have ventured my ſelf very frankly, on ſeveral Occaſions for the good and honour of my Country, and am as free to do it again, (and which I hope I ſhall yet do as old as I am, to redeem it from the ſlavery, it is like to fall under;) Yet I think it not convenient to expoſe my ſelf to be ſecured, as not to be at Liberty to effect it; and for that Reaſon I withdrew, but ſo as to be within call, when ſoever the Nations Eyes ſhall be opened, ſo as to ſee how they have been abuſed, and impoſed upon by the ſpecious pretences of Religion and property. I hope it will pleaſe GOD. to touch their Hearts, out of his *infinite mercy*, and to make them ſenſible of the ill condition they are in, and bring them to ſuch a temper, that a Legal Parliament may be called; and that amongſt other things which may be neceſſary to be done, they will agree to Liberty of Conſcience for all *Proteſtant Diſſenters*; And that thoſe of my own perſwaſion may be ſo far conſidered, and have ſuch a ſhare in it, as they may live peaceably and quietly, as *Engliſh-men*, and *Chriſtians* ought to do, and not to be obliged to transport themſelves, which would be very grievous, eſpecially to ſuch as love thier own Countrey: And I appeal to all, who are conſidering Men, and have had Experience, Whether any thing can make this Nation ſo great in flouriſhing, as *Liberty of Conſcience*? Some of our Neighbours dread it. I could add much more to confirm all I have ſaid; but now is not the proper time,

ROCHESTER, December 22d.
1688.

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